

THE LANCASTER NEWS

VOL. 23. NO. 39. SEMI-WEEKLY.

LANCASTER, S. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1918.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 A YEAR

RAIDS ALONG WEST FRONT INCREASING

Considered Chief Features of Military Interest in View of American Participation.

KIEV TAKEN BY GERMANS

No Definite Decision as to Japanese Intervention in Siberia. Twelve Americans Taken Prisoner by the Teutons.

Raids of growing intensity and frequency on the Franco-Belgian front are furnishing the chief feature of military interest, particularly in view of the increasing degree of American participation in the fighting. Larger issues, however, are involved in the Russian situation the uncertainties of which are giving rise to manifold military and political complications.

The peace negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the Germans seem to have been broken off. Manifestly, at any rate, there is developing a growing measure of beligerency among the Russian proletariat, who, with the safety of the revolution as a rallying cry, are reported to be responding from all sides to support it.

Likewise the peace negotiations between Rumania and the central powers are reported in unofficial advices from Berlin to have failed. The unsatisfactory reply of the Rumanian king is said to have been responsible for the break. A semi-official Berlin statement, however, says the German and Austrian representatives have not left Bucharest, where the sessions were held.

The German advance into the interior of Russia is in full swing again, with columns reported moving toward Petrograd from Pskov and pushing northeast along the railway from Podolsk with the object of cutting the Moscow-Petrograd railway at Bologie, midway between the two cities, and starving out Petrograd by shutting off its supplies.

In the south the Germans have secured their immediate objective in the Ukraine by occupying Kiev, the capital of the republic, after a little more than a 10-day march through the country on the 200-mile route east from the former fighting front. The German reports do not indicate what price in casualties the Bolsheviks exacted for the surrender of Kiev, which they had captured from the Ukrainian rada's supporters February 8, with reported total casualties for both sides of 4,000 killed and 7,000 wounded. Presumably the rada, which negotiated the separate peace between the central powers and the Ukraine at Brest-Litovsk, will be speedily reinstated in the captured city.

The tentative proposals for Japanese intervention in Siberia because of the Russian situation have not culminated in any decision by the allies, so far as the current advices reveal. London dispatches mention a growing tendency there to discuss the situation fully and await developments, particularly the attitude the United States may assume. China is also involved in this situation and press dispatches from that country report political unsettlement there because of it. The Chinese government, it is said, is to send reinforcements to Manchuria.

Twelve Americans were taken prisoner by the Germans in their raid of Friday on the American trenches east of St. Mihiel, the German war office announces. It was in this raid that the American troops met the onslaught of picked German "shock" detachments in gallant style, strewing the ground in front of the entrenchments with German dead and capturing three of the attacking party. The German statement claims the infliction of "heavy casualties" upon the Americans.

A powerful raid was carried out against the French in the Verdun region south of Maucourt, more than 400 prisoners and many machine guns being captured, according to the German claim. The British drove off several German raiding

THOROUGH PROBE IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

Governor Manning Expresses Himself Emphatically Regarding Lynching.

PRAISES SHERIFF MORRIS

Solicitor Gunter Also Takes Decided Stand and Promises Aid in Prosecuting the Alleged Lynchers.

Columbia, March 4.—"There will be a thorough investigation by this office of the lynching at Duck Branch bridge, near Fairfax, Barnwell county, on February 23, and those who participated will be vigorously prosecuted that the law may be vindicated," said Governor Manning following a conference with Sheriff J. B. Morris, of Barnwell county, and Attorney General Thomas H. Peeples.

The uncompromising stand of Governor Manning, and the arrests already made by Sheriff Morris indicate that probably more arrests will be made in connection with the lynching of Walter Best, a negro, at Duck Branch bridge, following the killing of William Wilson, a young automobile man, at Fairfax. The negro was taken from Sheriff Morris and two of his deputies about one and one-half miles from Fairfax on the highway to Allendale by a mob of white men variously estimated at between seventy-five and 100 and taken into a nearby woods and shot to death. Thursday seventeen prominent farmers of Fairfax and adjacent territory were arrested on warrants sworn out by Sheriff Morris, charged with complicity in the lynching, and were granted bonds aggregating \$97,500 that afternoon by Judge William H. Townsend, at Columbia.

Governor Manning has received a letter from Solicitor R. L. Gunter, of the Second Judicial Circuit, in which the county of Barnwell is situated, stating that the solicitor will do everything in his power to see that those participating in the lynching are brought to justice.

"I am determined that there will be a thorough investigation by this office of the lynching at Duck Branch bridge, near Fairfax, Barnwell county," said the governor in his statement, "and those who participated will be vigorously prosecuted that the law may be vindicated."

"I had a conference with the Attorney General and Sheriff J. B. Morris, of Barnwell county, this morning on the lynching. I received a letter from Solicitor R. L. Gunter of the Second Judicial Circuit, in which Barnwell county is situated, and he assured me that he would do everything in his power to see that those connected with the killing of Walter Best are brought to justice."

"I am glad to see that Sheriff Morris had a good memory for names and faces and had the courage to call names when the time came."

SENTENCED TO DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

Abbeville, March 4.—Court of general sessions, Judge S. W. G. Shipp presiding, adjourned Saturday, having been in session since Tuesday morning. The cases disposed of were: Dave London and Jim Durant found guilty of arson, granted new trial; T. B. Martin, violating prohibition law, not pressed upon payment of \$75; John Henry Jackson, guilty of murder, sentenced to be electrocuted March 29; George Bratcher, convicted of seduction, fined \$800 or one year on chain-gang; Pelham Ware, guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill, fined \$125 or one year on chain-gang.

parties, with the loss of only a few men in prisoners by the British, who took not a few Germans in raiding operations of their own. The Portuguese troops handled themselves well against the Germans, who raided trenches on a wide front north of Neuve Chapelle, the Portuguese counter-attacking promptly and completely restoring the situation.

AMERICAN SOLDIER NOT HANDICAPPED

Fights as Well Wearing Gas Mask as Without It and is Perfectly at Home.

OFFICER RISKS HIS LIFE

Takes Off Mask to Shout Orders to Men But It Happens That No Gas Was in That Section at Time.

With the American Army in France, March 4.—The three recent raids, one in the Toul sector and two along the Chemin de Dames, have demonstrated that the American soldier, notwithstanding his previous inexperience, now is perfectly at home in a gas mask and able to fight as well with as without it. In so quickly reaching this stage the Americans have shown their usual adaptability. Gas was used in all three attacks in just sufficient quantities to make masks necessary as the Germans, in their later attacks, did not desire to encounter quantities of their own gas.

When the engagement at Toul began, virtually all the Americans were masked. Some of the men, however, are reported to have taken a chance, when the German infantry attacked, pulling off their masks for freer action. One officer risked his life to give commands to his men during the roar of explosions. He was unable through his mask to make his men hear, so he pulled off and yelled his orders. As it happened, there was no gas in this particular section but he did not know it. The officer was willing to sacrifice his own life to get his men to a place of safety, where they could also strike effectively at the enemy.

There were many other instances of physical bravery. A lieutenant, a sergeant and two privates were in a dugout when some Germans looked in. One cried in good English: "Come out, Americans."

The four Americans blazed away with their automatics, then rused the entrance and stumbled over the bodies of the men, whom they had apparently killed by their quick resistance. During the bombardment which hardly could have been more than terrific two men who were concealed in a shell hole were buried by dirt thrown by another exploding projectile. They shouted for help and it came quickly. Their comrades left the shelters, from which they were ready to leap into action the moment the attacking infantry appeared, and exhumed the buried soldiers while stones, mud, earth, pieces of trees and shell splinters spattered about them.

Notwithstanding the fierceness of the fight at close quarters not more than one bayonet was used, and this one on a German. The Americans, using their automatic pistols, sent bullets into the German attackers with good aim in spite of the excitement. Rifle bullets accounted for many more.

Although the army has been cursing the weather and the mud for days, there is one man in the line today who is glad it was muddy, for he owes his life to the slippery "duck boards" or the flooring in the trenches. With pistol in hand he rounded a trench corner looking for the Germans. A burley Prussian saw him first and fired, but at the same moment the American slipped and fell on his face. The Prussian thought him dead and turned away. He was quickly dropped in his tracks by the prone American, who fired accurately from the trench bottom. There were men in the fight from virtually all the States from New York to Texas. With one or two exceptions all the wounded are expected to recover.

Some of the American dead were buried in a cemetery back of the lines during the night while friendly and hostile shells roared overhead.

A thick wet snow which now is falling is melting as soon as it touches the mud.

The bodies of the Americans slain in the fighting north of Chemin des Dames have been buried near where they fell, their French and American comrades participating in impressive ceremonies.

THE OUT-STRETCHED HAND



U. S. TROOPS IN DESPERATE BATTLE REPULSED HEAVY ATTACK BY GERMANS

Number of United States Soldiers Killed; Ten Men Taken Prisoner; Germans Suffer Heavy Losses Leaving Ground Strewn With Bodies; German Positions Demolished By Storm of Shells Sent Over By Pershing's Men.

American troops in a desperate, hand-to-hand battle, have repulsed a heavy German attack on the salient north of Toul. There were a number of Americans killed and wounded, including some officers. One of the dead was a captain who had been graduated from West Point last year. The Germans suffered heavily, leaving ten dead in the American trenches, while the ground in front was strewn with the bodies of the enemy. Three German prisoners remained in the hands of the Americans.

In the same sector, the American artillery has been taking revenge for the German gas attack early in the week, and German positions have been demolished by the storm of shells sent over by General Pershing's men. In addition to fighting in the Toul sector, the Americans have been active just north of Chemin-Des-Dames, where they have taken part in repulsing a German attack.

A German official statement says that ten Americans were taken prisoner in the latter sector. The fighting in which the Americans participated was near the village of Chavignon. It has been known for some time that Americans, probably members of one of the national guard divisions taken to France some time ago, were along the famous Chemin-Des-Dames sector, but the German statement reveals their locations more exactly than anything as yet received from the fighting front.

A few more Americans have been taken to field hospitals near Toul suffering from the effects of gas poisoning. These men were not in the trenches when the German gas attack was launched, but ventured into the danger zone without gas masks and were overcome by the fumes which had settled into shell holes and low places. So far as known, the gas casualties number six dead and about 80 overcome. Of the latter, only one case is considered to be grave.

With the American Army in France, March 4.—American troops repulsed a strong German attack Friday morning in the salient north of Toul. There were many American casualties, one of the killed being a captain who was graduated from West Point in 1917.

The raid was a complete failure, three German prisoners remaining in American hands. The ground in front of the American trenches were strewn with German dead.

A driving wet snow was falling when the Germans opened fire on the American salient with every weapon at their command. Seventy-seven, heavy shells and gas shells fell in a perfect whirlwind on the American trenches for half an hour. At the same time other enemy shells in great numbers were dropping on the American battery positions.

Attacked With Gas. The Germans, evidently thinking that the Americans in this section,

having had one taste of gas a few days ago, would fear it now, let loose great quantities of poisonous gas, but the men put on their masks and only a few were affected by it. So intense was the fire that the woods back of the salient were shot to pieces.

At 6 o'clock the barrage fire lifted on the trenches to the right of the salient and Germans numbering 240 came sweeping forward under the protection of their fire. They came forward apparently intending to make a big haul and jumped into what was left of the trenches, but there, instead of the easy time anticipated, found the Americans all ready for battle. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting began.

One American captain rallied men with rifles and machine guns and went through the American wire entanglements into No Man's Land and there waited for the enemy, whom he expected to be driven out by his comrades in the trenches.

Poured Deadly Fire.

He was right, for soon groups of the enemy started back through the wire entanglements. The Americans poured in a deadly fire, but unfortunately the captain was killed during the fight. He is the first member of the 1917 class at West Point to be killed.

While the Americans were in front of the wire entanglements and in shell holes, still fighting desperately, the American barrage fire began sweeping No Man's Land, catching many running Prussians who had enough of American methods. The barrage swept back and forth, making sure of doing all possible damage to the foe.

When the enemy had been driven back out of the positions, the bodies of 10 German soldiers were found in the American trenches. Two German officers were entangled in the wire and many bodies were in sight. Eight were visible through the snowstorm at one point. The ground was littered with enemy hand grenades, boxes of explosives for destroying dugouts and incendiary bombs which they had no opportunity to use.

They managed, however, to drop incendiary bombs in two dugouts which were destroyed by fire, but no Americans were in them. If the Germans captured any prisoners, which is doubtful, there were not more than two or three, possibly from a listening post. Of the missing, many probably were buried. Digging for them now is proceeding and others may be accounted for.

Two German prisoners were wounded and the other taken was unhurt except for a welt on one of his hands where he was struck by a young American soldier when he showed fight after capture.

From the prisoners the American officers have secured much valuable

(Continued on Page 8.)

CAROLINA SOLDIER AMONG DECORATED

Lieutenant from Charleston Wins High Honors in Battle With Huns.

FIVE OTHERS DECORATED

Premier Clemenceau Bestows Croix de Guerre With the Palm for Heroism on Visit to American Front.

With the American Army in France, March 4.—Premier Clemenceau, who spent Sunday on the American front northwest of Toul, decorated two lieutenants, two sergeants and two privates with the Croix de Guerre with the palm for heroism which they displayed in the recent German raid in this sector.

One of the lieutenants comes from Brooklyn and the other from Charleston, S. C. Both men went out into No Man's Land in broad daylight and got a German prisoner.

M. Clemenceau, accompanied by two French generals, arrived at American headquarters at the front at an early hour and immediately went to where the troops were drawn up on three sides of a square in companies.

The names of the men to be decorated were called, and they stepped up, the French premier pinning the decorations on them and saying a word to each. One he patted on the shoulder and said:

"That's the way to do it." The American blushed and retired to the ranks.

One of the French generals said to a lieutenant, newly decorated: "We have got the Boches down and we shall put them down deeper if we keep working as we have."

At the end of the ceremony a young private came running along hurriedly. He spoke for a moment with his captain, fearing apparently that he was going to lose his medal. The captain directed him to proceed to M. Clemenceau's automobile, which he did. The premier stepped out and slapped him on the back, handing him his war cross. One of the generals remarked laughingly: "Never mind about being late. You were on time the other morning. That is enough."

The soldier, in the excitement and glory of the moment, forgot to salute, but an American general came to his rescue, whispering: "Salute! Salute!" None of the men decorated can wear their honors until authorized by congress.

The premier went far forward into an observation post overlooking No Man's Land, the German positions and the country in the distance, then hidden in the haze. He entered several dugouts under the ruins of houses, brought down since the arrival of the American troops. A few shells, both friendly and hostile, whistled overhead while M. Clemenceau was there, but none dropped near. The premier seemed especially impressed with the sturdy healthy appearance of the Americans, even those caked in mud who had just returned from the front line. He spent the afternoon inspecting the billets in many towns back of the lines and also visited a field hospital where he talked with the men wounded in the recent raid, telling all of them they had done finely.

One of these sergeants decorated is from Arkansas. While in a dugout a German lieutenant called out. "Come out, Americans," and the sergeant led out his men fighting. He personally killed the lieutenant and two soldiers.

The other came from Detroit. He was about to retire for age, but asked to be sent to France. He took command of a detachment in front of the wire when his captain was killed and continued the fight, inflicting losses on the enemy.

One private from St. Louis artillery distinguished himself twice in running messages from the line to the artillery during the gas attack, and during the raid through the barrage. The other private decorated delivered important messages through the barrage after having said good-bye to his comrades.